

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLED PORTION IN SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA, TGEN

SUBJECT: SPACE COOPERATION, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) TOKYO 3083; B) TOKYO 3229

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FRENCH SPACE AGENCY LEVY DENIED THAT FRENCH AND JAPANESE ARE CONSIDERING COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING LAUNCHER TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, WE SPECULATE THAT THE FRENCH MAY SEEK TO INVOLVE THE JAPANESE IN THE EVENTUAL COMMERCIAL USE OF THE ARIANE LAUNCHER.
END SUMMARY.

1. SCICON DISCUSSED FRANCO-JAPANESE SPACE COOPERATION WITH PRESIDENT OF FRENCH SPACE AGENCY (CNES) MAURICE LEVY, SHORTLY BEFORE LEVY'S DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN. LEVY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PLANNING TO COOPERATE IN LAUNCHER TECHNOLOGY. HE SPECIFIED THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY AT PRESENT OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN ARIANE (L35) PROGRAM, NOTING THAT ESRO HAD JUST APPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS TO INDUSTRIES. HE AGREED WITH SCIATT SPECULATIONS THAT JAPANESE LAUNCHER
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TECHNOLOGY IS NOT IN SAME CLASS AS FRENCH AND HENCE THAT FRENCH

HAD LITTLE TO GAIN FROM JAPANESE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TOO LATE FOR THE JAPANESE TO JOIN IN EITHER OF CNES'S ON-GOING LAUNCHER PROGRAMS: DIAMANT OR ARIANE. THE REDESIGNED DIAMANT B P4 LAUNCHER (ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO US SCOUT) IS PAST DEVELOPMENT STAGE AND IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE ITS QUALIFICATION LAUNCHES THIS YEAR. AS LEVY INDICATED, THE ARIANE LAUNCHER PROGRAM BOARD OF ESRO ON FEBRUARY 28, 1974 APPROVED CNES'S PROGRAM DEFINITION STAGE WHICH INCLUDED DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN CONTRACTS TO FRENCH INDUSTRIES AND SUB-CONTRACTS TO INDUSTRIES OF OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. CNES WOULD THEREFORE BE UNLIKELY NOW TO TRANSFER ANY SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE MAIN CONTRACTS TO THE JAPANESE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THAT MAINTENANCE OF VIABLE DOMESTIC SPACE INDUSTRY IS A MAIN OBJECTIVE OF FRENCH SPACE PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FRENCH HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE FRENCH WOULD WANT IN EXCHANGE. ONE POSSIBILITY IS AGREEMENT BY THE JAPANESE TO USE THE ARIANE LAUNCHER, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN COMMERCIAL OPERATION AFTER 1980. ARIANE'S COMMERCIALIZATION IS VERY MUCH ON MIND OF LEVY AS FRENCH ARE EMBARKING ON \$500 MILLION ARIANE DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH THEY MUST PAY OVER 60 PERCENT OF COSTS AS WELL AS OVERRUNS BEYOND 20 PERCENT.

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